Repair of distressed railway bridges

435. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways spent Rs. 650 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan for rebuilding distressed bridges;

(b) if so, the number of bridges rebuilt/repaired so far, in this period; and

(c) the details of expenses incurred on each of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The Railways spent Rs. 410.65 crores during 9th Five Year Plan for re-building/rehabilitation of bridges including distressed bridges.

(b) A total number of 3400 bridges including 617 distressed bridges have been re-built/repaired during the period.

(c) Estimates of the bridges are sanctioned section-wise in groups and expenditure incurred accordingly. Therefore, it is not possible to segregate the expenditure incurred on construction/repair/rehabilitation of each bridge.

Untraced passengers in the Rajdhani Express accident

436. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the respective number of passengers killed, hurt and those who survived in the Howrah-New Delhi 2301 Up Rajdhani Express accident at Rafiganj due to breaking down of the bridge on Dhaba river;

(b) the total number of passengers who boarded the train at Howrah station, before its departure;

(c) whether there is any difference in the number of total passengers and those of the killed, hurt and survived;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) the number of passengers who are yet to be traced; and

(f) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) In the derailment of 2301 Up Rajdhani Express on 9.9.2002 near the approach of Bridge Number 445, near Rafiganj on Gaya-Mughalsarai section, 107 persons, including 22 train duty Railway staff, lost their lives and 165 persons, including 21 Railway staff on train duty, were injured. However, 307 persons were safe in this accident.

(b) 551 passengers including 86 train duty staff, boarded the train at Howrah.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No passenger is untraceable. However, one body could not be identified.

(f) Does not arise.

Duty Hours of railway drivers

437. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the maximum hours of duty for railway drivers as per rule;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news-item published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated 15th September, 2002 under the caption "Neend ki halat mein chalak ne Dehradoon Express ko Mugalsarai Pahunchaya";

(c) if so, what were the reasons for forcing drivers for doing more than 10 hours duty; and

(d) who would be responsible for the mishap in such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The working hours of drivers are